

CENSOR EVER ALERT

No News Allowed to Filter Through From Natal.

GENERAL MUTHEN TO BE RELIEVED

The Boers Report Ladysmith in Dire Straits.

ATTACK ON MAKEKING

LONDON, January 16.—The complete absence of news from Natal up to this hour proves that the censorship will allow nothing to pass until Gen. Buller's plans are executed or have failed. Even Gen. Roberts, in his report of yesterday evening, refrained from mentioning a word about Natal or Gen. Buller. From the other columns there is little news of moment.

Mohler river advice of yesterday's date only report daily long range shelling, from which the Boers are supposed to have suffered severely. A dispatch from Sterkstroom, dated Monday, January 15, reports that Gen. Gatacre's troops had made a demonstration beyond Moltene, in the direction of Stormberg, in the belief that the Boers intended to seize Moltene. The burghers were not alerted, and the British remained at Moltene. Arrivals from Stormberg estimate that there are 4,500 Boers at that place, mostly revolted colonists and Free State. President Steyn's brother is the third son.

French Still Shelling the Boers.

Gen. French continues to shell the Boer positions, but nothing decisive has taken place.

Evidence accumulates that Gen. Methuen's blunder at Magersfontein has lost him the confidence of his entire force to such an extent that it is declared it is impossible for him to lead the army. It is another attack on the Boers. The war office is understood to be in possession of a letter written by Gen. Vaneboer, the night before the battle, in which he said that the last letter he would ever write, as he had been asked to perform an impossible task. He had either to die or to surrender his sword. An immediate change in the command of the force may therefore be expected. It is anticipated in some quarters that Lieut. Gen. Tucker will succeed Gen. Methuen.

BOERS LOST HEAVILY JANUARY 6.

Correspondent of the Associated Press Goes Over the Field.

LADYSMITH, Monday, January 13.—By messenger to London, January 10.—A representative of the Associated Press went Saturday's battlefields this morning and saw large numbers of Boers dead. The British guns seem to have worked great havoc. One Boer was completely dismembered, another had his head clean shot off, and a couple of others were killed by the same shell, evidently while eating their luncheon. The bodies of the Boers lay in rows beside them. Some Natal Dutchmen were recognized among the dead.

A number of Boer bodies and carcasses of horses have been washed down into the Tugela river. The Boers are still making a heavy thunderstorm. The British, while digging graves, were fired on by Boer artillery and several of them were hit. Several bullets and hand grenades have been found on wounded prisoners. Volunteers carried the Boer dead off the battlefield and buried them in the trenches. The Boers at the bottom. Over ninety were thus carried off Wagon Hill alone.

Ladysmith in Dire Straits.

PRETORIA, Saturday, January 13.—As a result of the bombardment of Makekilling yesterday the British fort at Eastward was demolished and the British retired. One Boer was wounded.

Advices from the head laager at Ladysmith report that the attack on that place January 6 was disastrous to the British and that Ladysmith appears to be in dire straits.

Boers Repulsed at Rensburg.

RENSBURG, Cape Colony, Monday, January 13.—The Boers of this district attempted to rush a hill held by a company of the Yorkshires and the New Zealanders, but they were repulsed at the point of the bayonet. The Boers had twenty-one men killed and about fifty wounded.

ELECTRIC RAIL TO PT. LOOKOUT.

Articles of Incorporation Filed at Annapolis Today.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.
STATE HOUSE, ANNAPOLIS, Md., January 15.—Articles of incorporation were filed with the secretary of the State at Washington, Mechanicsville, Leonardtown and Point Lookout Electric Railway Company. The incorporators are Comly R. Jones and Frank R. Tenney of Philadelphia, John T. Ballinger, Giles F. Dyer, B. Harris Cammiller and Jos. F. Morgan of Maryland. The capital stock is \$1,000,000.

The object of the company is to create the electric line from Washington, through Prince George's, Charles and St. Mary's counties, to Point Lookout at the mouth of the Potomac river. The papers were filed by Mr. Francis V. King, member of the house of delegates from St. Mary's county, who is president of the company. It is also understood that a bill will be introduced in the general assembly conferring additional powers on the company, which will enable the promoters to increase the capital stock and extend the road to other points than those named in the articles.

FOUND HANGING TO A LIMB.

Supposed Case of Lynching of Negro Near Henning, Tenn.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., January 15.—A negro named Anderson Gause was found hanging to a limb of a tree near Henning, Tenn., this morning. It is supposed he was lynched for aiding in the escape of the Glinery brothers, who recently murdered two officers near Ripley, Tenn.

FIRE IN ARTISTS' QUARTERS.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bixbee Has Narrow Escape in Boston.

BOSTON, January 15.—A fire which started on the fourth floor of the five-story building at the corner of Washington and Tremont streets, just before 4 o'clock this morning, cut off the escape of several artists who occupy studios on the floor. Mrs. Elizabeth Bixbee, whose apartments were on the top floor, was overcome by smoke before she could reach the fire escape. The woman was taken to a hospital, where she revived, and at 10 o'clock a. m. was declared out of danger. The monetary loss was slight.

German Navy Bill Submitted.

BERLIN, January 16.—The bill providing for the increase of the German navy has been submitted to the federal council.

OVER \$90,000 SUBSCRIBED.

Success of the Appeal for the Lawton Fund.

The following subscriptions to the Lawton fund have been received by Gen. Corbin since the 12th of January:
Subscriptions of citizens of San Francisco, Cal., and the Pacific coast, through Gen. Wm. R. Shafter and A. A. Watkins, chairman of the citizens' committee, \$9,494.50; additional subscriptions deposited with Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co., Boston, \$250; additional subscriptions of citizens of Indianapolis, Ind., through The Press, \$350; citizens of Des Moines, Iowa, \$165; subscriptions of the San Francisco Examiner and others, \$121.50; Gen. Leonard Wood, \$50; Edward Farrer, Havana, \$50; Gen. William Ludlow, \$25; citizens of Cleveland, Ohio (additional), through Myron T. Herrick, \$194; members of Company E, 24 Infantry, Fort Thomas, Ky., \$25; additional subscriptions of citizens of Milwaukee, through Gen. Charles King, \$20; contributions from Soldiers' Orphan School, at Chester, Pa., \$22.20; citizens of Butte, Mont., through Inter-Mountain, \$140.50; citizens of Detroit, Mich. (additional), through Col. Frank J. Hecker, \$22.31; citizens of Lexington, through the Commercial Appeal, \$25; citizens of St. Louis, Mo., through the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, \$25; citizens of Columbus, Ohio, \$1, making a total of \$90,902.33.

TO MAKE AN ACCURATE CENSUS.

Preparations for the Collection of Statistics.

Owing to the fact that the statistics of florists' business, which the census office requires, relate almost entirely to the year 1899, a plan has been formed for taking an early census of floriculture by mail, on special schedules, and to tabulate and publish the results thereof early, while the florists are still in the season of their business. The plan of the great work of enumeration are in progress.

There are approximately 10,500 florists in the United States. The names and addresses of a majority of them have been obtained and classified by the division of agriculture in the census office, and each known florist will soon receive a copy of the special schedule devoted to this interest. It will be accompanied by a list (as far as ascertained) of all the florists in his section, to be by him corrected, added to and returned to the department for use in making the report complete and reliable.

No private individuals will be permitted to have access to the schedules after they have been filled out and returned, nor will the names of persons or firms giving information be made public. The figures only will be used and published, and the entire process and record of gathering information will be confidential.

As the law requires the regular enumerators to obtain certain information as to tenure, value, etc., during their visits in the field, all the items of the florists themselves shall be prompt and conscientious in filling out and returning the special schedule. If they do not, they will be the most perfect in history.

Director Merriam suggests and requests that the agriculturists of this country use the special schedule in the same manner as the June next in preparing themselves to answer promptly and accurately the questions relative to the acreage, quantity and value of crops, the quantity and value of all farm products, animal and vegetable, the cost of fertilizers and farm labor, and, in short, all the items of the florists themselves shall be prompt and conscientious in filling out and returning the special schedule. If they do not, they will be the most perfect in history.

TO BE CONSULT AT CANTON.

Robert M. McWade Named to Succeed Dr. Bedloe.

The President today sent to the Senate the name of Robert M. McWade of Pennsylvania to be consul for the United States at Canton, to succeed Dr. Edwin S. Bedloe. This nomination closes the incident in Dr. Bedloe's case. So far as can be learned, Dr. Bedloe left the Department of State by resignation, and bears its good will. There never was the slightest charge against his honesty and integrity, according to the department officials. The trouble in his case grew out of the action of his interpreter, Mr. Dr. Bedloe, being the principal officer, was compelled to bear the brunt of the complaints. He was unfortunate in his dealings with the higher officials of the Chinese government, and especially through the misleading action and advice of his interpreter. These things conspired to make Dr. Bedloe persona non grata to the Chinese government, and he felt himself called upon to resign rather than embarrass the Department of State. The Chinese government, however, for many years was city editor of the Public Ledger.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Difference in Last Month as Compared With a Year Ago.

The monthly statement of the imports and exports of the United States for December, compared with the same month a year ago, shows as follows:

Merchandise—Imports, \$71,547,273, of which \$31,198,411 was free of duty; increase, \$31,198,411; exports, \$118,575,311; increase, \$10,000,000.
Gold—Imports, \$3,849,246; decrease, \$3,849,246; exports, \$1,827,271; decrease, \$12,200,000; exports, \$5,725,857; decrease, \$10,000,000.
For the twelve months of the calendar year 1909 the imports and exports were as follows:

Merchandise—Imports, \$739,824,620, of which \$251,844,004 was free of duty, compared with \$624,448,418, of which \$201,173 was free of duty; increase, \$161,876,172. Exports, \$1,275,486,641, compared with \$1,225,629,219, increase, \$49,857,422.
Gold—Imports, \$1,191,949,135, compared with \$1,191,949,135, increase, \$18,163,362. Exports, \$4,535,941,111; in 1908, \$16,194,554.
Silver—Imports, \$30,844,181; compared with \$29,131,289; exports, \$33,484,680, compared with \$33,797,104.

THE COMPLAINT NOT CREDITED.

Feeling at the Department Regarding Charges Against Merrill.

It is decided to resist the investigation next Friday, when Private Secretary Porter and Postmaster General Smith will be requested to appear before the committee and bring all papers in the case.

W. D. BYNUM'S NOMINATION.

Democrats Opposing It on the Ground That He Is Not a Democrat.

The Senate committee on finance again today under consideration the nomination of W. D. Bynum to be general appraiser of merchandise at New York. The democratic members of the committee continued their opposition to the nomination, contending that Mr. Bynum is not a democrat, and that his nomination as such is an evasion of the law. Senators Burrows and Spooner and other republican members of the committee defended the selection as entirely proper. After a general exchange of opinion it was decided that the democrats should have the time to address proof of Mr. Bynum's republicanism. The nomination is in the hands of Senators Aldrich and Jones of Arkansas as a subcommittee.

The Buford at San Juan.

The quartermaster general has been informed that the transport Buford arrived at San Juan de Puerto Rico this morning.

UTAH POSTMASTERS

Another Polygamy Investigation Commenced Today.

HOUSE POST OFFICE COMMITTEE

Representative Lentz is Questioned by the Chairman.

THE OFFICIAL RECORD

Another polygamy investigation was commenced at the Capitol today. The House post office and post roads committee, of which Mr. Loud is chairman, took up the resolution, heretofore adopted by the House, offered by Mr. Lentz of Ohio, as follows:

"Whereas it is charged and generally believed that John C. Graham, postmaster at Provo City, Utah, a presidential appointee, is ineligible to hold a federal office, because he is alleged to be a member of the House of Representatives; and whereas it is charged and generally believed that Orson Smith, postmaster at Logan, Utah, a presidential appointee, is ineligible to hold a federal office for the same reason that it is alleged Brigham H. Roberts is ineligible to a seat in the House of Representatives;

"Therefore, resolved, that the committee on the post office and post roads shall have power and be directed to send for persons who have access to the records of the House in relation to said federal appointees, John C. Graham and Orson Smith, and that after said examination said committee shall report to the House of Representatives whether it is true, as frequently alleged, that said John C. Graham and Orson Smith, presidential postmasters, respectively, at Provo City, Utah, and Logan, Utah, are now and for some months have been under indictment as polygamists, and whether it is true that at the time of their appointment or prior thereto said two postmasters were open and notorious polygamists, and whether or not at the time of their appointment said John C. Graham and Orson Smith were in possession of affidavits and papers evidencing such polygamy of both or either one of them or on file."

Mr. Lentz appeared before the committee and was asked if he sought the committee should be called upon to go into the general question of polygamy in Utah. He replied that he did not, and that he realized the committee had no real power in the case, but was about to "pigeonhole" the resolution.

Mr. Loud repelled this insinuation. The committee, he said, would pigeonhole nothing. Mr. Lentz said he wanted the committee to do just what the resolution required. It was true that polygamists are drawing federal salaries, he wanted that fact recognized by the House and that the House would find the power to cut off such a practice.

Questions as to the character of the evidence which could be produced to sustain the charges that the administration had knowingly appointed polygamists to federal offices, Mr. Lentz asserted that he had papers in his possession which the President making charges of polygamy against the officials in question. Private Secretary Burrows said for them. These papers, however, cannot now be found.

Mr. Grosvenor's Alleged Remark.

Mr. Lentz said that Representative Grosvenor had said to him, "You don't suppose we were fools enough to let grass grow under our feet, do you?" As such remarks were brought we had men look into this matter."

Mr. Brownell of the committee suggested that Mr. Grosvenor had not meant to imply that the papers had been abstracted, but was a polygamist or that any such charges were brought we had men look into this matter."

Several members of the committee demanded that Mr. Grosvenor be summoned, and that any attempt to deny the charges be made at the next meeting.

Chairman Loud read to the committee the following letter from the Postmaster General:

Postmaster General's Letter.

"On looking into the papers as to the postmasterhip at Logan, Utah, I find the facts to be as follows:

"Orson Smith was appointed postmaster November 19, 1897, upon the recommendation of the referees in the usual way. There was nothing in the papers to indicate that he was a polygamist, and his appointment had been made respecting him, not a word to raise that question in connection with his appointment. He was confirmed by the Senate January 1, 1900."

"After his appointment there was a letter from the Rev. Mr. Clemenson, bearing date November 22, 1900, in which he stated to the President, which was sent to the Post Office Department and there received November 30. There is nothing to indicate that he was a polygamist, and his appointment had been made, and as thousands of papers come in, it was filed away, apparently without examination. There is no other paper in the case indicating any such allegation until December 21, some weeks after the nomination was in the Senate."

"As to the Provo City case, the facts are, as I stated to you, that there is no paper in the department of any date making an allegation of polygamy against John C. Graham, but that when it became a matter of public report some time ago I wrote to the President of the territory asking him for any information in his possession, and he replied that a charge had been made in the state court, and the postmaster had been held over for trial, which was soon taken place. We decided that we ought not to convict in advance of trial, and reserved action until the judicial determination."

Witness Expected Friday.

It was decided to resist the investigation next Friday, when Private Secretary Porter and Postmaster General Smith will be requested to appear before the committee and bring all papers in the case.

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The Buford at San Juan.

The quartermaster general has been informed that the transport Buford arrived at San Juan de Puerto Rico this morning.

Gen. Greely Much Better.

The War Department was informed today that General Greely was better this morning.

PHILIPPINE REPORT

Commission Has Sent It to the Public Printer.

IS DIVIDED INTO SEVERAL BOOKS

First Volume Devoted to the Political Issues Involved.

RESOURCES OF THE ISLAND

A Splendid Atlas.

The Philippine commission today completed its report and dispatched it to the public printer. Proofs of the first section are expected tomorrow, and there is every reason to believe that the first volume, at least, can be laid before Congress within a week. Because of the pendency of the Philippine question just now before Congress, it is regarded as desirable by the commission that this material be submitted at the earliest possible moment.

The report is voluminous and arranged in an orderly fashion that will make it particularly valuable to the public. It is divided into several volumes, and one interesting feature will be a splendid atlas of the Philippine archipelago, specially prepared for the commission by the Jesuits. This has been turned over to the coast and geodetic survey for reproduction.

The first volume, which is to be brought out immediately, is devoted entirely to the political issues involved in the acquisition of the Philippines. It sets out the instructions of the President to the commission and describes the operations of the commission under those instructions. Then follow chapters on the general government, currency, the Chinese question, naval requisites, etc. Of these subjects the section of the work, with its exhibits, will occupy from one-half to two-thirds of the volume. The plan of government suggested under three heads—first, that existing in Spanish times; second, the reforms desired by competent Filipinos under that system; third, the plan of government suggested by the commission on the basis of their experience, in setting out the aspirations of the Philippine people.

Resources of the Islands.

The second volume will be devoted to the resources of the island, and there are sufficiently important and numerous to occupy a full volume in their description. Other volumes will follow, containing the great mass of testimony taken by the commission in pursuance of the President's instructions. The commission feels that it has covered the ground with great thoroughness, and as its information has come from all sources the facts set out in the report cannot be easily controverted.

Some Demand Protection.

The representatives of the several local interests that might be injuriously affected by free trade with Puerto Rico, however, are persistent in their demands for protection from competition with Puerto Rico, and it is believed that many in Congress that the influence will be strong enough to compel a new construction of the Constitution which would permit of different revenue laws for the islands.

At the White House.

The Condition of Puerto Rico Discussed in the Cabinet Session.

A Wish That Legislation Defining Its Status Should Be Speedily Enacted.

No new subjects came before the cabinet today, but there was an interesting discussion of Puerto Rico. The people of the island have behaved so well and have been the subject of so many misfortunes that the President and cabinet are deeply desirous to see the status of the island defined without much delay. The President has expressed these views to members of Congress and to callers. In the talk in the cabinet today the hope was freely expressed that Congress would take speedy action.

A Commercial Orphan.

The administration regards the island as a political and commercial orphan, a victim of physical adversity. The legal and commercial relation of the island to this country ought to be quickly established, is the way the matter is regarded. Of course, the cabinet has nothing to do with legislation as to Cuba, and it is not the intention of the President to bring the matter before Congress by a special message, but the fact that unusual interest is being taken in the people and island is regarded as encouraging by those who hope to see something accomplished.

The Webster Statue.

Senator Chandler saw the President this morning regarding the unveiling of the statue to Daniel Webster and the exercises to be held in the Lafayette Theater on Thursday morning preceding the unveiling. The President will not accept the statue, and this duty will be performed by Secretary Long of the navy. The President will attend the exercises at the theater and at the location of the statue.

A TRANS-PACIFIC CABLE.

Secretary Long and Admiral Bradford Favor Government Construction.

Secretary Long and Rear Admiral Bradford appeared before the Senate committee on naval affairs today in advocacy of the proposed cable in advocacy of the construction of a Pacific cable by the government. The Secretary's statement was general and related entirely to the feasibility of the plan and its advantage over doing the work by private enterprise.

Army Orders.

Captain Charles J. Symonds, assistant quartermaster of volunteers, has been relieved from temporary duty in the office of the quartermaster general and ordered to New York city for assignment to duty. Upon the completion of his duties there he will proceed to Puerto Principe, Cuba, to resume his duties at that station.

Returning From Manila.

General Shafter has informed the War Department of the arrival at San Francisco yesterday of the transports Olympia and Pennsylvania from Manila. The only military passengers aboard were Colonel Vile, 4th Cavalry, and two discharged soldiers on the Olympia and a retired sergeant on the Pennsylvania. No deaths occurred during the voyage, and the remains were transported on either ship.

The Dixie Sails.

The Navy Department has been informed that the Dixie has sailed from Norfolk for San Juan.

COLONIAL LAWS

The Question of Discriminating Duties for the Islands.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A Declaration as to the Constitutional Provision Expected.

A QUESTION OF POLICY

It has become manifest that there is a very determined purpose with a strong element in Congress to overturn the construction of the Constitution which extends to all the territory of the United States the provision for uniformity of revenue laws among the states. The subcommittee of the ways and means committee which is now considering this question has thus far not gone beyond an academic discussion, but the belief is growing that the outcome will be a declaration supported by the majority that the Constitution does not compel the extension of uniformity in laws to the acquired possessions. If this course is pursued the proposition will be promptly seized upon by the anti-expansionists as an evidence that the policy of expansion of territory involves a departure from our constitutional forms and the adoption of an imperial policy. They are looking forward to such action with expectancy for a vindication of their contention that the government of acquired islands inhabited by an alien race is not practically under our institutions, and that if it is undertaken the principles of the republic must be sacrificed in order to adapt ourselves to new conditions.

As to Puerto Rico.

The administration does not want the question of discriminating revenues raised as to Puerto Rico, but wants the laws extended over that island by free grace and not a constitutional right, so as not to be bound to the same course as to the Philippines. Secretary Root's argument on the question placed the extension of the revenue laws to Puerto Rico on the ground that the plan purpose behind the laws is the plain purpose behind the laws is the plain purpose of the government when the question has to be settled with respect to the Philippines.

Discriminating Duties.

If discriminating duties are placed upon commerce between Puerto Rico and the rest of the country the question will undoubtedly be taken to the Supreme Court. The government, and should that court sustain the theory which has heretofore been generally established, that the Constitution forbids such discrimination, it would become obliged to extend the laws of this country to the Philippines, or else to amend the Constitution to permit of a colonial government.

Some Demand Protection.

The representatives of the several local interests that might be injuriously affected by free trade with Puerto Rico, however, are persistent in their demands for protection from competition with Puerto Rico, and it is believed that many in Congress that the influence will be strong enough to compel a new construction of the Constitution which would permit of different revenue laws for the islands.

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COL. RANDALL HERE.

Confers With Secretary Root Regarding Troops in Alaska.

Col. G. M. Randall, 8th Infantry, arrived in this city today from Havana, Cuba, reported at the War Department for duty under orders assigning him to the command of the newly created military department of Alaska. He had a conference with Secretary Root this afternoon in regard to the strength and scope of his new duties. Among the questions considered was the most desirable place in Alaska for the establishment of headquarters. In view of the importance of the Alaskan department it has been decided to promote Col. Randall to brigadier general and to give him a sufficient military force and every facility for the execution of the policy of the government in our extreme northwest possession.

POLLOCK RIPP SHOAL.

Eastern Shipping Interests Want a Light House There.

The shipping interests of the North Atlantic coast are interested in an effort that is being made for a review of the decision of the lighthouse board for a lightship at Pollock Ripp shoal, the southeasterly part of Massachusetts. A lightship instead of a lightship is desired, because there is danger that a ship might drag anchor and great damage result. The difficulty has been that the lightship would have to be constructed in deep water, but a new plan for which it is guaranteed that for \$200,000 a lightship such as needed can be built. The committee believes that, if feasible, and will support the proposition if the conclusion of the lighthouse board should be favorable.

BOTTLED BEER.

No Refund of Tax on Bottles and Corks.

The Court of Claims, in an opinion handed down, has decided that Schlitz, the beer manufacturer, is not entitled to a drawback on imported bottles and corks used in the manufacture of beer bottled for export. The Schlitz company made claims at the treasury for a drawback of duties paid on materials entering into the manufacture of beer bottled for export, including bottles and corks. The law which authorizes the refund of tariff duties paid on articles which are later manufactured for export. The treasury refused the drawback as to bottles and corks, claiming that they were not so essential to the